General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 36

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.3 and Add.1)*]

55/18. Bethlehem 2000

The General Assembly,

Recalling the fact that the Palestinian city of Bethlehem is the birthplace of Jesus Christ and one of the most historic and significant sites on earth,

Noting that the world is continuing to celebrate in Bethlehem, a city of peace, the onset of the new millennium in a global vision of hope for all peoples,

Stressing again the monumental importance of the event for the Palestinian people, for the peoples of the region and for the international community as a whole, as it comprises significant religious, historical and cultural dimensions,

Aware of the Bethlehem 2000 Project as a multifaceted undertaking for commemoration of the event, which began at Christmas, 1999, and will come to a close at Easter, 2001,

Aware also of the assistance needed with regard to the above-mentioned Project, and expressing appreciation for the steps already taken towards increasing the engagement and participation of the international community, including donor countries, and organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, as well as the European Commission, religious institutions and others,

Recalling the convening of the Bethlehem 2000 International Conference in Rome, on 18 and 19 February 1999, and its impact on the promotion of the Bethlehem 2000 Project and the mobilization of public awareness in all regions in support of this endeavour,

Welcoming the participation in the Bethlehem celebrations of several heads of State and Government and many other eminent personalities, including religious leaders, and expressing appreciation for the Palestinian preparations for this event,

Welcoming also the historic Jubilee 2000 pilgrimage of His Holiness Pope John Paul II to the Holy Land, his landmark visit to the holy sites in Bethlehem and the important message delivered by the Pontiff at Manger Square,

Expressing the need for immediate change in the situation on the ground in the vicinity of Bethlehem, especially with regard to ensuring freedom of movement,

Stressing the need for ensuring free and unhindered access to the holy places in Bethlehem to the faithful of all religions and the citizens of all nationalities,

Expressing the renewed hope for a successful outcome of the Middle East peace process and the achievement of a final settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides, so that the millennium may be celebrated in an atmosphere of peace and reconciliation,

1. *Welcomes* this global and historic celebration in Bethlehem and the onset of the third millennium as a symbol of the shared hope for peace among all peoples of the world;

2. *Expresses support* for the Bethlehem 2000 Project, and commends the efforts undertaken by the Palestinian Authority in this regard;

3. *Notes with appreciation* the worldwide support for the Bethlehem 2000 Project, and calls for sustained assistance and engagement by the international community as a whole, including private sector participation, in ensuring the success of the Project and of this monumental commemoration;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to mobilize the pertinent organizations and agencies of the United Nations system to increase their efforts to ensure the successful completion of the Bethlehem 2000 Project;

5. *Decides* to conclude, at the current session, consideration by the General Assembly of the item entitled "Bethlehem 2000".

54th plenary meeting
7 November 2000

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 26

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.20 and Add.1)*]

55/19. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 54/12 of 27 October 1999, in which it expressed the wish that the cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union be strengthened further,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] which takes stock of such cooperation over the last twelve months,

Noting with appreciation the resolutions adopted by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and its activities during the past year in support of the United Nations, as well as the recommendation contained in the aforementioned report that the increasingly close and productive relationship between the two organizations be recognized through a new and formalized relationship between the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the General Assembly,

Welcoming the Conference of Presiding Officers of National Parliaments which was held at United Nations Headquarters from 30 August to 1 September 2000 and which concluded with the unanimous adoption of the Declaration entitled "The Parliamentary vision for international cooperation at the dawn of the third millennium",

Recalling with satisfaction the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] in which Member States resolved to strengthen further cooperation between the United Nations and national parliaments through their world organization, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, in various fields, including peace and security, economic and social development, international law and human rights and democracy and gender issues,

Recalling the unique inter-State character of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,

1. *Welcomes* the efforts made by the Inter-Parliamentary Union to provide for a greater parliamentary contribution and enhanced support to the United Nations,

[1] A/55/409.
[2] Resolution 55/2.

and calls for the cooperation between the two organizations to be consolidated further;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, to explore ways in which a new and strengthened relationship may be established between the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, and to report thereon to the Assembly by May 2001;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session on the various aspects of cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union;

4. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Inter-Parliamentary Union".

55th plenary meeting
8 November 2000

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 35

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.7)*]

55/20. Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba

The General Assembly,

Determined to encourage strict compliance with the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming, among other principles, the sovereign equality of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal affairs and freedom of international trade and navigation, which are also enshrined in many international legal instruments,

Recalling the statements of the heads of State or Government at the Ibero-American Summits concerning the need to eliminate the unilateral application of economic and trade measures by one State against another that affect the free flow of international trade,

Concerned about the continued promulgation and application by Member States of laws and regulations, such as that promulgated on 12 March 1996 known as the "Helms-Burton Act", the extraterritorial effects of which affect the sovereignty of other States, the legitimate interests of entities or persons under their jurisdiction and the freedom of trade and navigation,

Taking note of declarations and resolutions of different intergovernmental forums, bodies and Governments that express the rejection by the international community and public opinion of the promulgation and application of regulations of the kind referred to above,

Recalling its resolutions 47/19 of 24 November 1992, 48/16 of 3 November 1993, 49/9 of 26 October 1994, 50/10 of 2 November 1995, 51/17 of 12 November 1996, 52/10 of 5 November 1997, 53/4 of 14 October 1998 and 54/21 of 9 November 1999,

Concerned that, since the adoption of its resolutions 47/19, 48/16, 49/9, 50/10, 51/17, 52/10, 53/4 and 54/21, further measures of that nature aimed at strengthening and extending the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba continue to be promulgated and applied, and concerned also about the adverse

effects of such measures on the Cuban people and on Cuban nationals living in other countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 54/21;[1]

2. *Reiterates its call* on all States to refrain from promulgating and applying laws and measures of the kind referred to in the preamble to the present resolution in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, which, inter alia, reaffirm the freedom of trade and navigation;

3. *Once again urges* States that have and continue to apply such laws and measures to take the necessary steps to repeal or invalidate them as soon as possible in accordance with their legal regime;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the appropriate organs and agencies of the United Nations system, to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution in the light of the purposes and principles of the Charter and international law and to submit it to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba".

56th plenary meeting
9 November 2000

[1] A/55/172 and Add.1.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 44

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.28 and Add.1)*]

55/21. Global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 52/233 of 26 June 1998, 53/86 of 7 December 1998 and 54/114 of 15 December 1999 on the global implications of the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on the evaluation of the outcome of the steps taken within the United Nations system and with Member States to resolve the year 2000 problem,[1]

Recognizing that the effective operation of Governments, companies and other organizations was threatened by the year 2000 date conversion problem of computers, or "millennium bug",

Recognizing also the serious impact that the year 2000 problem could have had in all countries whose economies are increasingly interdependent,

Appreciating the establishment of a trust fund by the World Bank to assist in the efforts to resolve the year 2000 problem and the voluntary contributions made to it by the Member States,

Appreciating also the efforts of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics of the Economic and Social Council in raising the level of awareness of the year 2000 problem,

Noting that, as a result of the concerted international effort, the "millennium bug" caused no serious destruction of critical services on a national, regional or global level,

1. *Expresses its satisfaction* with the efforts of all Member States to solve the year 2000 problem before the rollover date of 31 December 1999, including by working to ensure that the private sector was fully engaged in addressing the problem and by tackling it in those systems under their own control;

2. *Commends* the unprecedented international cooperation which contributed to the successful outcome and the interest in providing mutual assistance

[1] A/55/387.

so that all could succeed, created by the realization of the interdependence among nations;

3. *Also commends* the public-private partnerships that were forged and which showed that, faced with a threat that affected entire industries, private and public interest converged;

4. *Urges* the international community to draw lessons from the experience of the initiative to address the year 2000 problem in dealing with complex global technical problems.

58th plenary meeting
10 November 2000

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 180

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.6/Rev.1 and Add.1)*]

55/22. Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the charter establishing the Economic Community of Central African States, by which the Central African countries have agreed to work for the economic development of their subregion, to promote economic cooperation and to establish a Common Market of Central Africa,

Welcoming the establishment by the Secretary-General, at the initiative of the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa on 28 May 1992, pursuant to resolution 46/37 B of 6 December 1991, and recalling its subsequent resolutions on the programme of work of the Committee,

Bearing in mind the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa[1] and resolutions 1196 (1998) and 1197 (1998) pertaining thereto, adopted by the Security Council on 16 and 18 September 1998 respectively,

Noting that, at the ninth regular session of the Economic Community of Central African States, held in Malabo on 24 June 1999, the heads of State and Government of the member States decided to resume the activities of the Community, inter alia, by providing it with sufficient financial and human resources to enable it to become a real tool for the integration of their economies and to foster the development of cooperation between their peoples, with the ultimate aim of making it one of the five pillars of the African Economic Community and of helping Central Africa to meet the challenges of globalization,

Welcoming the fact that, in their desire to instil a climate of peace and security and to strengthen democratic institutions and practice, together with respect for the rule of law and human rights in their subregion, the States of the Economic Community of Central African States have established the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa and have decided to set up an early warning mechanism in Central Africa as a tool for preventing armed conflicts, a subregional parliament

[1] A/52/871-S/1998/318.

and a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa to promote democratic values and experience and human rights,

Bearing in mind the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] adopted on 8 September 2000 by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations, and especially chapter VII thereof,

Aware of the importance of the support of the United Nations system and the international community, which is essential to ensuring that the members of the Economic Community of Central African States are successful in promoting economic development and integration and in consolidating peace, democracy and human rights in their subregion,

1. *Recognizes* that the purposes and objectives of the Economic Community of Central African States are in conformity with the principles and ideals embodied in the Charter of the United Nations;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take the appropriate steps to establish cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States;

3. *Welcomes* the support provided by the Secretary-General to the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States in strengthening confidence-building measures at the subregional level and promoting human rights, the rule of law and democratic institutions, in implementation of the programme of work of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue this support and, within the existing United Nations budget, extend it to all the fields to be covered in the framework of cooperation between the United Nations system and the Economic Community of Central African States, especially the reinforcement of the structures of the Community and the attainment of its objectives in favour of peace and security, democracy and human rights, so as to facilitate the operation of the early warning mechanism in Central Africa as a tool for preventing armed conflicts and to establish a subregional parliament and a subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa to promote democratic values and experience and human rights;

5. *Emphasizes* the importance of appropriate coordination between the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, and the Economic Community of Central African States;

6. *Urges* all Member States and the international community to contribute to the efforts of the Economic Community of Central African States to achieve economic integration and development, promote democracy and human rights and consolidate peace and security in Central Africa;

7. *Welcomes and calls* for the continuation of the efforts made by a number of States, notably in the form of multinational exercises, to enhance the peacekeeping capacities of the States members of the Economic Community of Central African States, so as to enable them to play a larger part in United Nations operations;

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[2] Resolution 55/2.

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Community of Central African States".

58th plenary meeting
10 November 2000

General Assembly

Distr.: General
11 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 32

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.30 and Add.1)*]

55/23. United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 53/22 of 4 November 1998 and 54/113 of 10 December 1999 entitled "United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations",

Reaffirming the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, which, inter alia, call for collective effort to strengthen friendly relations among nations, remove threats to peace and foster international cooperation in resolving international issues of an economic, social, cultural and humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,

Noting that civilizations are not confined to individual nation-States, but rather encompass different cultures within the same civilization, and reaffirming that civilizational achievements constitute the collective heritage of humankind, providing a source of inspiration and progress for humanity at large,

Bearing in mind the specificities of each civilization and the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[1] which considers, inter alia, that tolerance is one of the fundamental values essential to international relations in the twenty-first century and should include the active promotion of a culture of peace and dialogue among civilizations, with human beings respecting one another, in all their diversity of belief, culture and language, neither fearing nor repressing differences within and between societies but cherishing them as a precious asset of humanity,

Noting that globalization brings greater interrelatedness among people and increased interaction among cultures and civilizations, and encouraged by the fact that the celebration of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, at the beginning of the twenty-first century, will provide the opportunity to emphasize that globalization not only is an economic, financial and technological process which could offer great benefit, but also constitutes a profoundly human challenge that invites us to embrace the interdependence of humankind and its rich cultural diversity,

[1] Resolution 55/2.

Recognizing the diverse civilizational achievements of humankind, crystallizing cultural pluralism and creative human diversity,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that dialogue among civilizations can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Stressing the need for the universal protection and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right of all peoples to self-determination, by virtue of which they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development,

Underlining the fact that tolerance and respect for diversity and universal promotion and protection of human rights are mutually supportive, and recognizing that tolerance and respect for diversity effectively promote and are supported by, inter alia, the empowerment of women,

Emphasizing the need to acknowledge and respect the richness of all civilizations, to seek common grounds among and within civilizations in order to address threats to global peace and common challenges to human values and achievements, taking into consideration, inter alia, cooperation, partnership and inclusion,

Welcoming the collective endeavour of the international community to enhance understanding through constructive dialogue among civilizations,

Encouraged by the positive reception of Governments, international organizations, civil society organizations and international public opinion to the proclamation of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, and welcoming the initiatives undertaken by governmental and non-governmental actors to promote dialogue,

Expressing its firm determination to facilitate and promote dialogue among civilizations,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the convening, at the level of heads of State, of a round table on dialogue among civilizations, organized by the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, held at United Nations Headquarters on 5 September 2000 and which further contributed to the promotion of dialogue among civilizations;

3. *Invites* Governments, the United Nations system, including the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and other relevant international and non-governmental organizations to continue and further intensify planning and organizing appropriate cultural, educational and social programmes to promote the concept of dialogue among civilizations, inter alia, through organizing conferences and seminars and disseminating information and scholarly material on the subject, and to inform the Secretary-General of their activities;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to encourage all members of society to take part in promoting dialogue among civilizations and provide them with an opportunity to make contributions to the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

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[2] A/55/492/Rev.1.

5. *Encourages* all Governments to expand their educational curricula relative to the teaching of respect for various cultures and civilizations, human rights education, the teaching of languages, the history and philosophy of various civilizations as well as the exchange of knowledge, information and scholarships among Governments and civil society in order to promote a better understanding of all cultures and civilizations;

6. *Encourages* all Member States, regional and international organizations, civil society and non-governmental organizations to continue to develop appropriate initiatives at all levels to promote dialogue in all fields with a view to fostering mutual recognition and understanding among and within civilizations;

7. *Notes with interest* the activities undertaken and proposals made by Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and international and regional organizations, including the Organization of the Islamic Conference and non-governmental organizations, for the preparation of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

8. *Decides* to devote two days of plenary meetings at the fifty-sixth session of the General Assembly, on 3 and 4 December 2001, to the consideration of the item, including consideration of any follow-up measures, and commemoration of the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations, and encourages Member States and observers to be represented at the highest possible political level;

9. *Invites* all Governments, funding institutions, civil society organizations and the private sector to consider contributing to the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General in 1999 to promote dialogue among civilizations;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide the necessary support for strengthening the activities pertaining to dialogue among civilizations;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session a substantive report on the prospect of dialogue among civilizations and the activities pertaining to the United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "United Nations Year of Dialogue among Civilizations".

60th plenary meeting
13 November 2000

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 January 2001

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 45

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.31 and Add.1)*]

55/24. The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 46/242 of 25 August 1992, 47/1 of 22 September 1992, 47/121 of 18 December 1992, 48/88 of 20 December 1993, 49/10 of 3 November 1994, 51/203 of 17 December 1996, 52/150 of 15 December 1997, 53/35 of 30 November 1998, 54/119 of 16 December 1999 and all relevant resolutions of the Security Council regarding the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Reaffirming its support for the independence, sovereignty, legal continuity and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, within its internationally recognized borders,

Reaffirming its support also for the equality of the three constituent peoples and others in Bosnia and Herzegovina as a united country, with two multi-ethnic entities,

Welcoming the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"), signed in Paris on 14 December 1995,[1]

Welcoming also the accomplishments achieved in implementation of the Peace Agreement, including the stabilization of the security situation, major reconstruction, the acceleration of the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, including to minority areas, the establishment of the Brcko District and the strengthening of political pluralism,

Welcoming further the efforts for the respect, promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of the rule of law in all of Bosnia and Herzegovina and for the development of the common institutions that will ensure that Bosnia and Herzegovina functions as an integrated modern State, accountable to its citizens,

Supporting those institutions and organizations of Bosnia and Herzegovina that are engaged in the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the process of

[1] A/50/790-S/1995/999.

reconciliation and reintegration, and noting, however, the slow progress in the development of efficient common institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Concerned by the continuing obstructions faced by refugees and displaced persons wishing to return to their pre-war homes, in particular in areas where they would be an ethnic minority, emphasizing the need for an unreserved commitment by all political authorities, including at the entity and local levels, also emphasizing the need for all parties and the relevant States and international organizations to create the conditions necessary to facilitate a secure and dignified return, particularly in urban areas such as Sarajevo, Banja Luka and Mostar, and stressing the need for a regional approach to the issue of refugees and displaced persons,

Supporting fully the efforts of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, stressing the importance and urgency of the work of the International Tribunal as an element of the process of reconciliation and as a factor contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region as a whole, demanding that States and parties to the Peace Agreement meet their obligations to cooperate fully with the Tribunal, as required by Security Council resolutions 827 (1993) of 25 May 1993, 1022 (1995) of 22 November 1995 and 1207 (1998) of 17 November 1998, including with respect to surrendering persons sought by the Tribunal, and welcoming the efforts to secure compliance with the orders of the Tribunal, consistent with the Security Council mandate,

Noting improved cooperation between the International Tribunal and the States and entities in the region, as stated in the seventh annual report of the Tribunal,[2] also noting that a number of individuals named in public indictments still remain at large, calling upon all the States and entities in the region to continue to improve cooperation and to comply fully with their obligations, and welcoming the efforts of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Commander of the multinational Stabilization Force in implementing the provisions of the Peace Agreement,

Welcoming the mutual recognition among all the successor States of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia within their internationally recognized borders, and stressing the importance of full normalization of relations among those States, including the unconditional establishment of diplomatic relations in accordance with the Peace Agreement and the settlement of all issues relating to the succession of the former Yugoslavia on the basis of the legal equality of all five successor States, in order to contribute to the achievement of lasting peace and stability in the area,

Noting the significant improvement of relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Croatia following the elections held in Croatia in January 2000,

Welcoming the important political change following the recent elections in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and noting the significance of this change for the region as a whole,

Welcoming also the successful summit meeting of heads of State and Government to launch the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe in Sarajevo on

[2] See A/55/273-S/2000/777.

29 and 30 July 1999, and stressing that the Stability Pact offers a broad regional framework for further progress in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Noting that democratization in the region will enhance the prospects for a lasting peace and help to guarantee full respect for human rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Stressing the importance of full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for the success of the peace efforts for the region, and calling upon the Governments and authorities in the region, as well as the relevant international organizations, to facilitate such full respect,

Concerned about the plight of thousands of families of missing persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and supporting fully the efforts of the International Commission on Missing Persons to resolve the fate of the missing persons,

Reaffirming the importance of the early adoption of a permanent electoral law, consistent, inter alia, with the ruling of the Constitutional Court on the equality of the three constituent peoples throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, calling upon the Parliamentary Assembly elected in November to adopt this law expeditiously, noting that such adoption is a prerequisite of membership of the Council of Europe, and reaffirming the importance of genuine democratic representation of all three constituent peoples in all common institutions,

Stressing the importance of faster integration of the countries of the region into the political and economic mainstream of Europe, on the basis of individual merits and achievements, also stressing in particular the positive impact that the early admission to the Council of Europe could have on Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region in search of sustainable economic and political stability, and noting the importance of Bosnia and Herzegovina establishing its place in Euro-Atlantic institutions,

Noting the positive impact of the five pledging conferences, held on 21 December 1995, 13 and 14 April 1996, 25 July 1997, 8 and 9 May 1998 and 30 May 1999 and chaired by the World Bank and the European Union, on the peace process and reintegration of the country as well as the reconstruction effort, stressing the importance and urgency of providing the financial assistance and technical cooperation pledged for reconstruction efforts, and stressing the role of economic revitalization in the process of reconciliation, in the improvement of living conditions and in the maintenance of a durable peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the region,

Stressing that the provision of reconstruction aid and financial assistance is conditional upon the parties meeting their obligations under the Peace Agreement,

Recognizing the importance of demining for the normalization of life and for the return of refugees and internally displaced persons,

Welcoming the achievements, and encouraging further efforts at reducing the military assets in line with the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control,

Noting with appreciation that Bosnia and Herzegovina is beginning to participate in the peacekeeping operations of the United Nations,

Welcoming the important efforts of the European Union to promote reform and stability through its stabilization and association process, and recognizing the work

of the European Union and other donors in providing humanitarian and economic assistance for reconstruction,

1. *Expresses its full support* for the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the annexes thereto (collectively the "Peace Agreement"),[1] which constitute the key mechanism for the achievement of a durable and just peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, leading to stability and cooperation in the region and the reintegration of Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels;

2. *Reaffirms its support* for the New York Declaration, adopted on 15 November 1999,[3] in which the Joint Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed to important steps for moving forward the process of fully implementing the Peace Agreement, notes that the progress of its implementation has been slow, and urges the parties to take the additional steps necessary to comply with all of its aspects;

3. *Notes* the progress that has been made towards the implementation of the Peace Agreement, and reiterates its demands for the full, comprehensive and consistent implementation thereof;

4. *Supports fully* the efforts of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, in accordance with the Peace Agreement and subsequent Peace Implementation Council declarations, and calls upon all parties to cooperate fully and in good faith with him;

5. *Stresses* the importance for the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region as a whole of the activities related to the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe launched in Sarajevo, and urges the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to take concrete steps to play an active role in it;

6. *Welcomes* the Zagreb summit to be held on 24 November 2000;

7. *Notes* the progress achieved with the concept of "ownership" as presented by the High Representative,[4] also notes the continuing need for the High Representative to use fully the authority of his office to deal with obstructionists, and stresses the need for the political leaders to assume more responsibility in the process of the implementation of the Peace Agreement;

8. *Recognizes* that the role of the international community remains essential, welcomes the readiness of the international community to continue its efforts towards a self-sustaining peace, and recalls that the responsibility for consolidating peace and security primarily lies with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

9. *Welcomes* the ruling of the Constitutional Court of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the equality of all three constituent peoples throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina, urges the entity parliaments and cantonal assemblies to implement it accordingly, and also urges the Constitutional Court to rule further on the status of those other than the three constituent peoples;

10. *Also welcomes* the vital contribution of the multinational Stabilization Force in providing a secure environment for the implementation of civilian aspects of the Peace Agreement, calls for the fullest cooperation by all parties in this regard,

[3] S/1999/1179, annex.
[4] S/1999/1115.

expresses its full support for the efforts of the United Nations International Police Task Force in carrying out its mandate, and commends its efforts in the establishment of the rule of law in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

11. *Underlines* the fact that the assistance provided by the international community remains strictly conditional upon compliance with the Peace Agreement and subsequent obligations, including in particular cooperation with the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and facilitation of the return of refugees and displaced persons;

12. *Insists* upon the need to surrender all indictees to the International Tribunal for trial, notes that the Tribunal has the authority to address individual responsibility for the perpetration of the crime of genocide, crimes against humanity and other serious violations of international humanitarian law in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and demands that all the parties fulfil their obligations to hand over to the Tribunal all indicted persons in territories under their control and otherwise to comply fully with the orders of the Tribunal and to cooperate with the work of the Tribunal, including with exhumations and other investigative acts, in accordance with article 29 of the statute of the Tribunal, with all relevant Security Council resolutions and in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina;

13. *Welcomes* the support given by Member States so far, and urges Member States, taking into account the orders and requests of the International Tribunal, to offer the Tribunal their full support, including financial support, in order to ensure the achievement of the purpose of the Tribunal, and to carry out their obligations under the statute of the Tribunal and all relevant Security Council resolutions;

14. *Reaffirms once again* the right of refugees and displaced persons to return voluntarily to their homes of origin in secure and dignified conditions in accordance with the Peace Agreement, in particular annex 7 thereof, and the realization of the same in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and host countries, calls upon all parties to improve substantially their cooperation with the international community at the State, entity and local levels, in order to establish immediately the conditions necessary for the return of refugees and displaced persons to their homes and for the freedom of movement and communication of all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, encourages the relevant international organizations to enhance the conditions to facilitate both spontaneous and organized return, in accordance with relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, in particular the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and welcomes continued and new efforts by the United Nations agencies, the European Union, bilateral and other donors and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to establish and implement projects designed to facilitate the accelerated voluntary and orderly return of refugees and displaced persons to all regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including projects that would help to create a safe and secure environment with increased economic opportunity;

15. *Encourages* the acceleration of the peaceful, orderly and phased return of refugees and displaced persons, including in areas where they would be the ethnic minority, strongly condemns all acts of intimidation, violence and killings, including those acts designed to discourage the voluntary return of refugees and displaced persons, and demands that such acts be investigated and prosecuted;

16. *Welcomes* the report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations,[5] and takes note of the recommendations stemming from and relevant to the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/35 on the fall of Srebrenica;[6]

17. *Reaffirms* the previous conclusions of the Peace Implementation Council on the importance of reform of the media in Bosnia and Herzegovina, reiterates its support for the decision of the High Representative of 30 July 1999 on the restructuring of the public broadcasting system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, notes that its implementation remains behind schedule, and calls upon the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to implement that decision in full;

18. *Stresses* the importance of establishing, strengthening and expanding throughout all of Bosnia and Herzegovina free and pluralistic media, deplores any action that seeks to intimidate or restrict the freedom of the media, and condemns violent acts of intimidation against journalists;

19. *Reaffirms once again its support* for the principle that all statements and commitments made under duress, particularly those regarding land and property, are wholly null and void, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Peace Agreement, and in that regard supports the effective engagement of the Commission for Real Property Claims of Displaced Persons and Refugees, and calls upon all sides to implement the property laws imposed on 27 October 1999, in particular by evicting illegal occupants from the homes of returning refugees, and to ensure respect for individual rights to return and the establishment of the rule of law;

20. *Emphasizes* the importance of economic revitalization and reconstruction for the successful consolidation of the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina, recognizes the important contribution of the international community in this regard, and invites it to continue its efforts;

21. *Notes* that corruption and the lack of transparency seriously hamper the economic development of Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasizes the importance of combating corruption, welcomes the important contribution made in this regard by the Customs and Fiscal Assistance Office, and expresses its full support for the efforts of the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its local bodies and of others that are supportive in this regard;

22. *Supports* the efforts by the High Representative and the Commander of the multinational Stabilization Force, in accordance with the Peace Agreement and subsequent Peace Implementation Council declarations, to weaken the continued political and economic influence of remaining parallel nationalist structures obstructing the peace implementation;

23. *Stresses* the need for a more comprehensive approach to implementing economic reforms, and underlines the fact that a self-sustainable, market-oriented economy operating in a single economic space, expeditious and transparent privatization, improved banking and capital markets, reformed financial systems, the provision of adequate social protection and the adoption by both entities of a law on pension reforms that meet sound economic standards are crucial for achieving lasting peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

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[5] See A/55/305-S/2000/809.

[6] A/54/549.

24. *Welcomes* the proclamation of the Brcko District and the appointment of an interim government and District Assembly, expresses its support for implementation of the final arbitration award in accordance with the Peace Agreement, and stresses that the obligation to cooperate fully with the Supervisor for Brcko is an essential obligation for both of the entities;

25. *Also welcomes* the Mostar Document adopted on 12 July 2000 by the representatives of the city of Mostar and its six city municipalities under the auspices of the European Union, and calls for its implementation;

26. *Notes* that the pledged reduction of 15 per cent in the military assets of each entity was achieved in 1999, urges the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to fulfil their commitment to a further 15 per cent reduction in 2000 in the areas of military budgets, personnel, equipment and structure, and encourages the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to redefine their defence policies with particular reference to ensuring that the size and structure of the military is affordable, that it is consistent with the legitimate security needs of Bosnia and Herzegovina and contributes to regional security;

27. *Stresses* the need for timely information about the level of cooperation and compliance with the International Tribunal and its orders, the status and programme for the return of refugees and displaced persons to and within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the status and implementation of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control;

28. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Missing Persons Institute on 15 August 2000 in Sarajevo by the International Commission on Missing Persons, and supports the programmes put in place to resolve the continuing problem of missing persons within five to seven years;

29. *Also welcomes* the efforts of international regional organizations, Member States and non-governmental organizations, including through the Board of Donors, and the Slovenian International Trust Fund for Demining and Mine Victims Assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and invites Member States to continue to support the mine-action activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

30. *Commends* the efforts of the international community, including the Council of Europe, the European Union, the European Community Monitoring Mission, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the International Committee of the Red Cross, the International Monetary Fund, the multinational Stabilization Force, non-governmental organizations, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Development Bank, the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Peace Implementation Council and the World Bank, in their roles in the implementation of the Peace Agreement;

31. *Commends*, in particular, the efforts of the International Tribunal, the Office of the High Representative for the Implementation of the Peace Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Office of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations International Police Task Force, the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the United Nations Development Programme and the other United

Nations agencies in the peace process, and encourages their further engagement in the peace process in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

32. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "The situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

61st plenary meeting
14 November 2000